

THERE IS CLAIMED:

- 1.** A method of transmitting a packet within a telecommunication network, wherein a total processing time is associated with said packet and modified by at least some network equipments as a function of a particular processing time and said network equipments process said packet as a function of the associated total processing time.
- 2.** The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said total processing time is contained in a field of said packet.
- 3.** The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said particular processing time is determined by said network equipment as a function of the size of the queue(s) of said network equipment.
- 4.** The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said total processing time is initialized, preferably the sender of said packet, to a maximum transmission time and said particular processing time is subtracted from said total processing time.
- 5.** A network equipment of a data network, in particular a telecommunication network, having means for receiving incoming packets, means for sending outgoing packets, means for evaluating a basic processing time of incoming packets, means for modifying a value representative of the total processing time contained in said incoming packets, as a function of said basic processing time, and means for choosing outgoing packets in accordance with a priority depending on said total processing time.
- 6.** The network equipment claimed in claim 5 wherein said total processing time is contained in a field of said packet.
- 7.** The network equipment claimed in claim 5 wherein said particular processing time is determined by said network equipment as a function of the size of the queue(s) of said network equipment.
- 8.** The network equipment claimed in claim 5 wherein said total processing time is initialized, preferably by the sender of said packet, to a maximum transmission time and said particular processing time is subtracted from said total processing time.